



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER
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PRESS RELEASE

**Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford Schedules Public Tours of the Capitol Vault
Which Will Feature Treasurer's Office Antiques**

2012 Open Vault Tour Week: Lock in Your Visit Today

SPRINGFIELD – July 5, 2012 – Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford is offering for a second time a rare public tour of the treasurer's vault. These tours will be held every half hour, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 23-27.

"This year's rare public tours are especially important because the north wing of the Capitol will soon be under construction, meaning I will not be able to offer public tours next summer," said Rutherford.

New artifacts from a safe that was recently opened give a glimpse into the treasurer's office from several decades ago. These noteworthy items are on display just outside the vault, and include:

- Large, antique, circular key rings
- Official Illinois State Treasurer's wooden was seal
- Date stamp with date set in 1965
- Impact report on linked deposit programs in 1968
- Cocktail reception donor cards for Treasurer Donald Smith from 1978.

The vault contains items found in inactive safe deposit boxes, which range from jewelry to coins to military medals. Rutherford explained, "It has been my distinct pleasure since taking office in January 2011 to increase my office's efforts to return unclaimed property. In fact, in 2011, the office returned more than \$101 million in cash and other assets to their rightful owners, compared to a previous average of \$80 million."

Springfield Mayor Mike Houston, who is helping to kick off this announcement, is pleased to see another option for tourists and local residents alike. "I enjoyed taking my first tour of the treasurer's vault last year," said Houston, "and I'm always pleased to hear another good reason for people to visit the Capitol City."

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Tourism is an important part of the Springfield economy. “We see more than a million people coming to Springfield each year, and they’re enjoying the history and spending money, which is good for our city,” explained Houston. “I’m happy to be a part of this rare opportunity to invite people to see the vault and the interesting artifacts from years gone by.”

The current vault was installed in 1948. Prior to that, another vault was used, but the mystery of where that vault went remains. It is unknown whether it was built into the walls of the Capitol, or if it was removed. Visitors will not know what the vault area will look like until after construction to the north wing of the Capitol, which is scheduled to take up to a year and a half.

In addition, the third quarterly unclaimed property auction will run that same week. It will be held July 23-27, with staggered closing times that start at 10 a.m. on the 27th. Items that have been stored in the vault for at least five years are appraised and offered at auction to both make room for newly transferred items, and to preserve the value of those items so that owners or heirs can locate them at any point in the future. Once the auction begins, you can get to the auction website by going to www.treasurer.il.gov and clicking on “Auction.”

Tours begin in 203 Capitol, which is part of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office and located above the vault. For groups of 15 or more people, please schedule a tour by contacting Shirley Johnson at 217-558-4796 or at sjohnson@treasurer.state.il.us.

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